

BOROUGH AND PORT OF SANDWICH

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1962



Council in Office 1963

Mayor: Alderman A. H Jutson, J.P.

Chairman - Public Health Committee

Councillor D.S. Pettet

Other Members of Council - as at 30.6.63

Alderman G. Cleverly	Councillor B. E. Fagan
Alderman A. Mottershead, J.P.	Councillor J. D. Jezzard
Alderman Miss M. R. Turner	Councillor R. Sage
Councillor L. R. Barlow	Councillor A. G. Skinner
Councillor Mrs I. E. Boyle	Councillor A. M. Sproul
Councillor W. C. Claringbold	Councillor J. Wheatley, M.C.
Councillor D. F. N. Cox	Councillor F. E. Wood

Cinque Port Mayors Depute - Fordwich: Robert Paine, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.C.A.
Brightlingsea: James I'Anson
Sarre: H. G. Clements

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 30.6.63

Senior Public Health Inspector and Surveyor	G. T. Rowlands, C.R.S.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	W. F. Wilkinson, C.R.S.I.
Clerk	Miss E. V. Miles

Town Clerk

BARRIE ROBERTS

The Borough and Port of Sandwich 1962

To His Worship the Mayor (Alderman A.H.Jutson, J.P.)
Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Sandwich

I have the honour to present the report on Sandwich 1962.

The Registrar General's mid-year figure for the population of the Borough was 4,370. The 1961 Census disclosed at that time a population of 4,264 and the break down by sex and age group is given on the latter total.

The population distribution shown in 5-year age groups and as a running total for each sex is as follows -

Age Groups	0-4	-9	-14	-19	-24	-29	-34	-39	-44	-49
M 5 yr groups	162	158	208	126	74	107	115	130	143	147
Total M	162	320	528	654	728	835	950	1080	1223	1370
F 5 yr groups	156	141	178	150	97	105	122	156	158	155
Total F	156	297	475	625	722	827	949	1105	1263	1418

Age Groups	-54	-59	-64	-69	-74	-79	-84	-89	-100
M 5 yr groups	133	135	100	97	76	59	30	14	3
Total M	1503	1638	1738	1835	1911	1970	2000	2014	2017
F 5 yr groups	159	132	154	120	111	94	36	16	7
Total F	1577	1709	1863	1983	2094	2188	2224	2240	2247

Total population: 4264

It is seen that the slight preponderance of males born into the community is corrected by age 35 years when the total number of each sex in the community is equal. The female sex then becomes more preponderant as their longer survival asserts itself until at age 80 they have a 10% advantage in numbers.

The two age groups 65 - 74 and 75 and over have a relevance to the problem of housing the elderly and it is found that the problems which call for community assistance from Council services or Voluntary services are greatest amongst those living alone. Thus the number of single, widowed or divorced (S/W/D) persons in these age groups is of interest.

Males aged 65 - 74 total 173 of whom 45 are S/W/D
" " 75+ total 106 " " 46 " "
Females aged 65 - 74 total 231 " " 123 " "
" " 75+ total 153 " " 111 " "

Thus while the female sex is generally more able to manage alone the preponderance of that sex in the S/W/D group is bound to show itself in the occupants of old persons units, and of the tenants of such units in the Borough the ratio of male to female is 8 to 27.

In 1962 there were 66 live births and 69 deaths, the wrong side of the line for population increase. In the ten years between the census takings the population increased by only 124. This of course is the resident population and does not reflect the daytime population.

Out of the 66 births 5 were illegitimate. There were also two stillbirths. The birth rate was 15.1 per 1,000.

Looking at the 69 deaths, these occurred in the following age groups. The location of death and occurrence by months in the year are also shown in the following tables.

Age of Death

Age Groups	Under 1	-15	-24	-39	-54	-64	-74	-89	-100	Total
Male	1	-	-	2	1	11	11	11	2	39
Female	-	1	1	2	3	3	4	13	3	30
Total	1	1	1	4	4	14	15	24	5	69

Location of Deaths of Residents by month of the year

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
In Sandwich	1	2	4	1	5	4	2	1	1	5	7	6	39
Elsewhere	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	2	1	4	1	2	30
Total	3	4	7	4	9	7	5	3	2	9	8	8	69

The death rate was 15.8 per 1,000. Statistical tables are given later to show causes of death and to provide a comparison with the previous year and ten years before.

The occurrence of notifiable infectious disease was low in total in the year. Measles (3 cases) was relatively absent and no cases of scarlet fever or dysentery were notified. One case of Salmonella Typhimurium infection required follow-up, but did not originate in Sandwich.

An unusually high number of cases of tuberculosis were notified, 5 males and 1 female, all respiratory. There was in addition a death from this disease in a case not previously notified. The age distribution of the cases was: Under 5; 1 m: 15-24; 1 m, 1 f: 45-64; 1 m: 65+ 2 m, 1 f (not notified). These cases were all followed up by the tuberculosis health visitor and an investigation of contacts was made, in order to identify unknown sources of infection.

A visit was made by the Mass Radiography Unit to the Richborough area to examine all personnel at one of the factories. The result was reassuring and showed absence of active disease amongst the staff.

The protection provided by vaccination and immunisation during 1962 (County Service) was as follows.

Smallpox Vaccination:-

Primary vaccination	Under 5	-	63			
	5 - 15	-	72	Others	98	Total 233

Revaccinations	Under 5	-	7			
	5 - 15	-	122	Others	253	Total 382

This sharp increase was a reflection of the occurrence of smallpox imported into the country from the Far East by air travellers. It is hoped that mothers will not forget this experience and will have children vaccinated at the ideal age of 1 year.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Primary	Under 5	-	58			
	5 - 15	-	1			

Reinforcing dose	Under 5	-	11			
	5 - 15	-	32			

Whooping Cough inoculation was received with all these primary immunisations. Reinforcing doses against diphtheria should be given before school entry and again before transfer to the Secondary School.

Poliomyelitis vaccination:- This is now given by mouth or by injection and some courses of protection were completed with oral vaccine.

<u>2 doses</u>	Under 5	-	15			
	5 - 15	-	5			
	Others	-	24		Total	44

<u>3 doses</u>	Under 5	-	80			
	5 - 15	-	25			
	Others	-	109		Total	214

<u>4th dose</u>	5 - 15	-	48		Total	48
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General Population and Vital Statistics

Population: Mid 1962 - 4370 Area - 2137 acres

Birth rate: 15.1 per 1,000 (uncorrected)

Adjusted birth rate: 17.4 ; England and Wales - 18.

Death rate: 15.8 per 1,000 (uncorrected)

Adjusted death rate 13.1 ; England and Wales - 11.9

Infant Deaths: 1 (under 1 week)

Stillbirths: 2

Live births: 66

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Perinatal Mortality rate (Infant deaths under 1 week plus still-births, expressed as per 1,000 live and still births) = 44.

Percentage of live births - illegitimate = 7.6%
Maternal Deaths - Nil.

<u>Causes of death</u>	1962	1961	1957	1952
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4	-	1	2
Other Infectious or Parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm. Stomach	1	2	2	2
" Lungs or Bronchus	5	5	2	1
" Others	3	5	3	9
Leukaemia,	-	1	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	12	9	7	11
Coronary Disease	11	15	7	3
Hypertension with Heart disease	-	-	-	-
Other Heart disease	3	9	1	3
Other Circulatory disease	8	5	6	3
Pneumonia	1	2	2	-
Bronchitis	4	2	1	1
Other disease of Respiratory system	-	-	-	-
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, diarrhoea	1	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	1
Pregnancy or childbirth	-	-	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	-	1
All other accidents	2	3	1	-
Suicide	1	-	-	-
All other defined or ill defined causes	7	12	3	9
Deaths from all causes	69	70	36	50

Population: 62 = 4370; 61 = 4230; 1957 = 4550; 1952 = 4399

The general rise in deaths (the figure in 1956 was 42) is occurring in the causes of old age casualties and the stress condition of coronary disease. Cancer of the lung and bronchus shows an obvious and ominous increase also.

Other matters.

Housing:

The Council was advised that the conditions of the dwellings in two sections of Knightrider Street were such that they could only be dealt with satisfactorily by demolition and a clearance order was recommended. The Council was advised to consider a compulsory purchase

order to include the one remaining house to allow redevelopment of the area. Action on this matter was stayed until such time as houses are available in which to rehouse the occupants.

The Public Health Inspector is continuing the house to house inspection of the Borough, but progress under the Housing Acts is hindered by the present rehousing situation.

A Caravan Site, licensed as a holiday site, was permitted to take a limited number of permanent caravans to ease the local housing situation for key workers, but as can so easily happen in such an eventuality, the occupation preceded the provision of full sanitary and environmental amenities and some action was necessary to improve conditions.

In connection with one of the cases of respiratory tuberculosis it was necessary to take the unusual action of submitting a certificate to the Borough Council under Section 167, Public Health Act 1936 in order that notice requiring disinfection of a dwelling should be served. Informal proceedings had failed and the circumstances of the cases made disinfection essential. This was eventually achieved.

Some improvement of the Refuse Tip on the Ash Road was achieved by better control and cover, but the site is a most difficult one for control to be successful.

The sewage disposal arrangements in the Borough received further consideration during the year and a workable scheme seems to be within reach, by which the present disposal of untreated sewage into the tidal estuary will cease.

The Port of Sandwich is very quiet. 18 ships called during 1962 bring a tonnage of approximately 26,200. Cargoes of oil, sand and gravel were unloaded. No timber on ships from foreign ports was brought in. The Inspector made 8 visits of inspection, and the water supply point on the Town Wharf and that at Richborough were sampled and gave satisfactory results.

The Senior Public Health Inspector has supplied the following details of the work of his department during 1962.

1. Water Supplies.

The Thanet Water Board is responsible for the water supply to the Borough and the extensive main system supplies 100% of the properties.

The mains system in the Borough itself has been extended. The large main from Thanet to join the existing mains in the Richborough area has been completed and a much more reliable supply to the factory area has thus been ensured. This main is of sufficient size to allow for the expansion of the industries in this area. The pressure of

the mains in the town has also been improved by a main from Moat Sole to Loop Street and from the Woodnesborough Road to the Dover Road. These mains eliminate the dead ends. The pressure has also been improved by the installation of a booster pump at the outlet from the reservoirs.

During the year 26 water samples were taken and all were reported upon as being satisfactory.

Swimming Baths.

Five samples were taken of the water in the bathing pool at the Primary School. One of these was unsatisfactory and advice was given on the method of chlorinating the bath. The other 4 samples were found to be satisfactory. Falling leaves, dust and debris very easily upset the purity for this extraneous matter rapidly uses up the available chlorine in the water, and scope is given for bacterial growth.

2. Sewerage.

The Consultants arranged a further series of float tests at the request of the Council, following discussions at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. As a result of these further tests made on the basis of a greatly extended outfall it was deduced that a sea outfall is practicable. The Borough Council decided to seek the views of interested or affected parties in the neighbourhood before making a final decision between sewage treatment works with effluent discharged to the river or fragmentation and pumping by long outfall as far as $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles beyond low water mark.

During the year no additions were made to the sewer system in the Borough. The pumps have worked satisfactorily and have been regularly maintained the worn parts being replaced as a matter of routine. Trouble is still being experienced with the Millwall sewer but the main scheme will provide for the laying of a large relief sewer the full length of the Millwall to the Bulwarks Pumping Station and this will overcome the trouble.

The sewage from Woodnesborough and Sandwich Bay is now accepted into the system and arrangements are being made to accept the sewage from Worth also. This will discharge into the sewer in the Dover Road.

3. Food and food preparation premises.

During the year the routine inspection of all food and food preparation premises has been maintained. No formal notices have been served but voluntary co-operation has been achieved.

A total of 153 visits were made for this purpose and the importance of cleanliness and hygiene has been emphasized.

4. Ice Cream.

No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough but 26 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. The number is up considerably on last year because of the continued installation of deep freeze cabinets. With the exception of hotels and cafes all the ice cream is sold pre-packed and there is no sale of bulk ice cream.

During the year 35 ice cream samples were taken and the results were as follows:-

Grade I	29
" II	2
" III	1
Delayed in transit	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>35</u>

When the sample fails to be placed in Grade I the matter is investigated and a further sample is taken, these extra samples all proved to be quite satisfactory.

5. Butchers Shops.

All butchers shops, food preparation rooms and vehicles transporting meat have been regularly inspected. 33 visits were made during the year for this purpose. Special attention has been paid to the provision of an adequate supply of hot water, the proper treatment of all surfaces and the proper use of refrigeration.

6. Bakehouses.

6 inspections were made of the 2 Bakehouses in the Borough. The conditions found were quite satisfactory.

7. Shops and Licensed Premises.

All shops and licensed premises were regularly inspected during the year.

8. Milk and Dairies.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 (Part III)

Number of Registered distributors	2
" " " Dairies	2

In all 34 milk samples were taken and all except 2 passed the required tests. One sample failed to pass this test but a further sample complied, whilst one sample was delayed in transit and as a consequence it was not tested.

9. Meat Inspection.

There is one abattoir in the Borough, a private one situated at Loop Street. Owing to building operations the kill in 1961 was 18% down on that of 1960. The throughput has considerably increased as is shown by the table below.

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Cattle	1931	2777	2365	3241
Calves	933	941	1351	1212
Sheep	14066	9751	6737	10535
Pigs	15261	14769	12734	16671
Total	<u>32191</u>	<u>28238</u>	<u>23187</u>	<u>30388</u>
% increase or decrease over previous year		-12%	-18%	+31%

The increase in the kill is largely due to large contracts outside the area and a small amount of export to the Continent. This increase has led to longer hours for inspection, especially in the evenings, and there has been a 6 day a week kill throughout the year and sometimes it has extended to 7 days. If the increase continues a 7 day a week kill will become regular and a good portion of the weekend will be occupied for this duty.

All animals were inspected after slaughter and a number before slaughter and a total of 9 tons 12 cwt 2 qrs. 5 lbs of meat and offal was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The table of disease set out below is quite interesting reading. It is worth noting that no case of Tuberculosis was found in the cattle and that only 1% of the pigs were affected by this disease. No pig carcase was thrown out for T.B. and only the head glands were affected. The picture today is very different from that of even 10 years ago. Since Kent was made an Eradication area, T.B. has been eradicated from the cattle herds and 1962 was the first year when no case was found. This disease was probably passed to pigs by feeding them with infected milk - but as the milk is free from this germ the incidence in pigs has dropped correspondingly. There is still a small amount of direct infection amongst the pig population but as the source has been eliminated the incidence has dropped amazingly and 1% is a great improvement on past years (1957 - Cattle 2.68%; Cows 12%; Pigs 2.7%).

It will also be noted that in spite of the increased kill (a larger proportion of which has been the older animals) the actual incidence of other disease has reduced in every case except sheep and the % incidence has fallen considerably in every category. Much of this disease is parasite disease caused by the low lying and damp pastures and it is almost impossible to eradicate this - but if the cases of parasite disease were deleted it would be seen that there is very little serious disease present in the animals.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	2596	645	1212	10535	16670	-
Number inspected	2596	645	1212	10535	16670	-
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and</u> <u>Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	2	3	6	45	12	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	142	258	3	463	1370	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	5.9	40.5	.75	4.8	8.3	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	167	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.001	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	3	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	3	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of Slaughter-houses in use:

Slaughter-houses/Abattoirs in operation owned or leased by Local Authority	Private Slaughter-houses Licenced Operating	Bacon Factories	Knackers' Yards
NIL	1	1	NIL
Percentage of slaughtered animals inspected for the purpose of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955			100%

10. Council Property.

No new Council building has taken place during the year.

Plans for the erection of garages by the corporation and renting to the tenants is proceeding and this will do much to improve the appearance of the estate. Plans are also proceeding for the modernising of the 101 pre-war type Council houses. This will bring the amenities in these houses up to modern requirements.

11. Warden Area (for old persons units)

The warden scheme which was started in 1960 has continued satisfactorily. When the warden is not available because of illness the Red Cross has stepped in and carried out the warden's duties. This is a great help as it ensures a continuity of the service.

12. Other property

During the year 6 Improvement Grants and 1 Standard Grant was approved.

The work in the improvement grants amounted to £3644 and grants totalling £1757 were made whilst a standard grant of £62 was given. In addition to this several schemes were undertaken privately.

13. Slum Clearance.

No slum clearance was undertaken during the year.

The Borough is lucky in that much of the very sub-standard property especially in the centre of the town is bought when it falls vacant and an uneconomic amount of money is spent on it to bring it up to good condition. This has happened during the year and several of the dwellings have been transformed into attractive cottages with all modern conveniences.

14. General Housing Inspections

- (a) Number of dwellings inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts.

(b) Houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	27
(c) Houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense.	6
(d) Dwellings where defects were remedied after informal action.	28
(e) Dwellings rendered fit after serving formal Notices.	Nil
(f) Dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made (Closing Orders under Section 17 Housing Act 1957 Sub Section 1 Section 16/4)	Nil
(g) Houses demolished	Nil
(h) Houses in which closing orders in respect of part of the building were made.	Nil

15. Refuse disposal.

The weekly collection of refuse from the Borough, and its disposal by controlled tipping on the Council's site adjacent to the Ash Road has continued throughout the year.

This tip is particularly difficult to control for the following reasons.

1. The amount of household refuse is increasing each year.
2. The tip is on level ground and the level is being raised above the surrounding ground, instead of tipping in a depression and bringing the level up to the surrounding land.
3. The scarcity of covering material.

In order to ease matters the possibility of obtaining Fly ash from the Power Station in quantity in order to provide a supply of covering material is being investigated.

The tip has been regularly sprayed against flies. Rat infestation on the other hand has been heavy but 3 treatments of the tip have kept the numbers down.

16. Factories

	On Register	Inspections	Notices
Those where Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authority.	1	1	-
Those where Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	36	28	-
Other premises where Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	1	1	-
TOTAL	38	30	-

The factories were inspected during the year and co-operation was always experienced from the Managements. No formal Notices were served.

There are 42 outworkers residing in the Borough all of whom make paper containers for one of the factories along the Ramsgate Road.

17. Rodent Control.

During the year a considerable amount of work was carried out either inspecting property for evidence of infestation or carrying out treatment when such infestation was discovered. It was found that 23 residential properties, 3 Agricultural holdings and 21 Business premises were infested either by rats or mice and in all cases treatment was carried out which abated the nuisance. The controlled tip which I have already indicated was a permanent reservoir of infestation was thoroughly treated three times during the year and the numbers of the rodents were kept in check.

The use of Warfarin is still proving to be most satisfactory except in instances where there is an abundant food supply for the rodents and in those cases recourse to the older type of poison has proved to be effective.

As usual a sewer treatment was carried out early in the year and test baiting was undertaken in a % of the manholes throughout the Borough. It was found that only the sewers near the river were infested and then only where there was direct access to the sewers.

This has been found to be the state of affairs for several years now. The river banks because of the nature of the banks and the vast deposits of soft mud are extremely difficult to treat and must be regarded as a reservoir of infestation and efforts can only be made to keep the numbers of the rodents as low as possible.

Staffing.

The public health staff in the Guildhall was under pressure of work throughout the year, by reason of the calls of meat inspection, and the demands from the other aspects of the Senior Public Health Inspector's duties as Surveyor. You are putting this matter right and it calls for no further comment.

The Council's interest in public health affairs is appreciated and the tasks ahead challenge us all.

MALCOLM S. HARVEY
Medical Officer of Health

